

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/823,756

Examiner

Ponnoreay Pich

Applicant(s)

MATSUDA ET AL.

Art Unit

2135

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/9/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-7,9-12 and 14.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

KRM VU
PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 2-14 have been examined.

Response to Amendment

Applicant's amendments had been noted and an updated search performed based on those amendments. The examiner would like to note that the amendments made to claims 2, 7, 9, and 13 changed the preamble of the claims to indicate that the data storage device is "in an information equipment." This avoids possible 101 problems, which the examiner discussed with applicant's representative in an earlier interview. The specification discloses a data storage device in an information equipment as hardware, i.e. a magnetic disk drive, an optical disk drive, a magneto-optical disk drive, or a tape drive (Fig 2B; Fig 3; p6, lines 17-22; and p7, lines 7-9).

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ms. Allison Olenginski (Agent registration number 55509) on 10/21/2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert the following text in line 2 of page 1 of the specification beneath "DEVICE FOR RETAINING IMPORTANT DATA ON A PREFERENTIAL BASIS": "This

application claims priority from Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-315084 filed October 16, 2000."

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. Cancel claims 8 and 13.
2. Replace the following claims as follows:

Claim 10:

A computer-readable recording medium recorded with a program for a computer, the program causing the computer to perform:

assigning reduction ranking to each of a plurality of files on the basis of ranking rules associated with attributes of the respective files;

storing application ranking of each of the ranking rules associated with the attributes;

storing a data reduction speed for each of a plurality of combinations of a reduction processing algorithm and a file whose data is to be reduced; and

reducing data in each of the files according to the reduction ranking when a data storage capacity is insufficient for new data storage,

wherein the reducing applies the ranking rules in the application ranking order to determine the reduction ranking of the files, and

wherein said reducing data includes at least one of file deletion, data compaction, document summarization, and file saving.

Claim 11:

A computer readable storage medium encoded with processing instructions received via a propagation signal propagating a program to a computer, the program causing the computer to perform:

assigning reduction ranking to each of a plurality of files on the basis of ranking rules associated with attributes of the respective files;

storing application ranking of each of the ranking rules associated with the attributes;

storing a data reduction speed for each of a plurality of combinations of a reduction processing algorithm and a file whose data is to be reduced; and

reducing data in each of the files according to the reduction ranking when a data storage capacity is insufficient for new data storage,

wherein the reducing applies the ranking rules in the application ranking order to determine the reduction ranking of the files, and

wherein said reducing data includes at least one of file deletion, data compaction, document summarization, and file saving.

Claim 12:

A computer implemented data reduction method comprising:

setting up a ranking rule for ranking a plurality of files for each of attributes of the files;

assigning reduction ranking to each of the files on the basis of ranking rules associated with the attributes;

storing a data reduction speed for each of a plurality of combinations of a reduction processing algorithm and a file whose data is to be reduced; and

reducing data in each of the files according to the reduction ranking when a data storage capacity is insufficient for new data storage,

wherein the reducing applies the ranking rules in the application ranking order to determine the reduction ranking of the files, and

wherein said reducing data includes at least one of file deletion, data compaction, document summarization, and file saving.

Claim 14:

A computer implemented data storage method, comprising:

ranking stored files using ranking rules that consider plural file attributes;

determining whether data storage capacity will be exceeded when a new file is to be stored;

storing application ranking of each of the ranking rules associated with the attributes;

storing a data reduction speed for each of a plurality of combinations of a reduction processing algorithm and a file whose data is to be reduced;

reducing a storage space needed for a file with the highest rank until the new file can be stored; and

storing the new file,

wherein the reducing applies the ranking rules in the application ranking order to determine the reduction ranking of the files, and

wherein said reducing includes at least one of file deletion, data compaction, document summarization, and file saving.

IN THE DRAWINGS:

The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant: Figure 1 of the drawings is to be changed to add a "Prior Art" label. See replacement figure for Figure 1 attached to the end of this action.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ponnoreay Pich whose telephone number is 571-272-7962. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am-4:30pm Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Vu can be reached on 571-272-3859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ponnoreay Pich

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INFORMATION EQUIPMENT

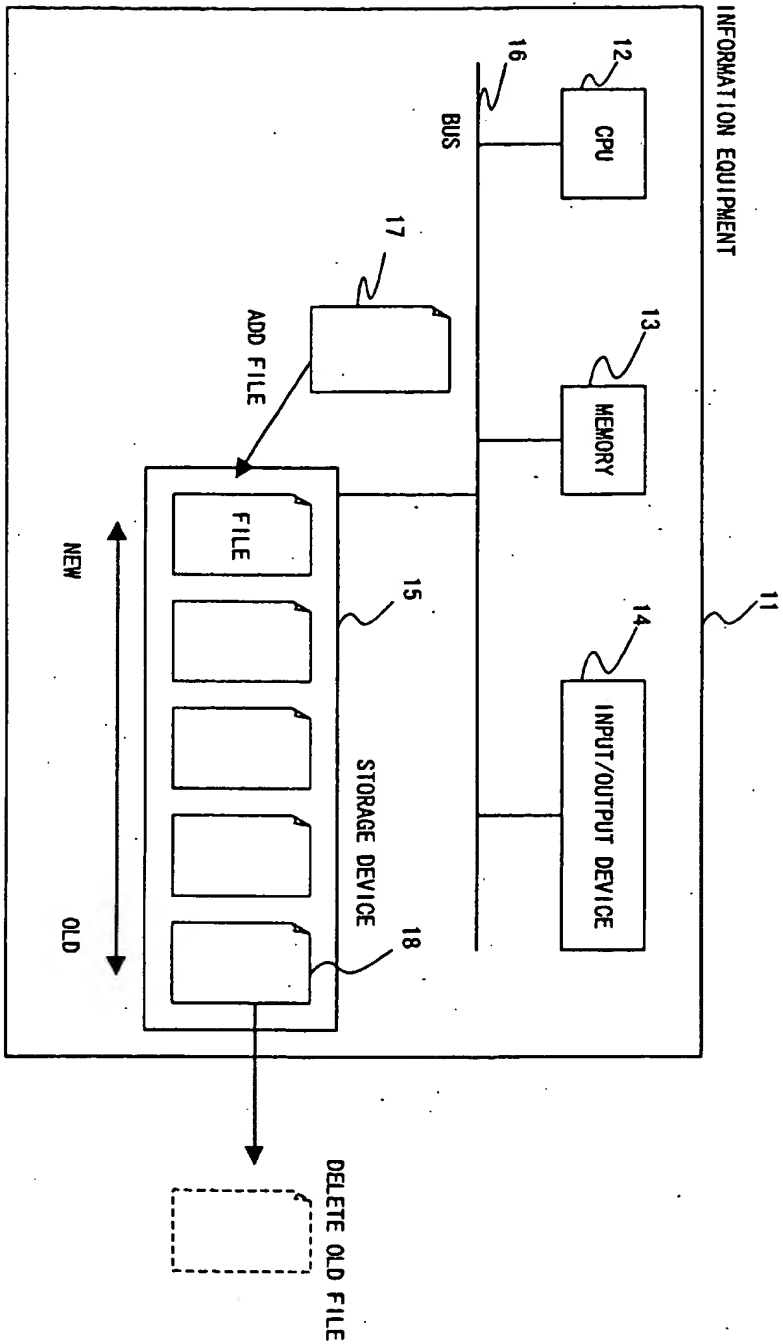


FIG. 1
(Prior Art)

APPROVED		O.G. FIG.
BY		
DRAFTSMAN	CLASS.	SUBCLASS